**Barrington Youth Soccer Association**

**Travel Program FAQs**

**How do I know if my child is ready for travel soccer?**

Your child is ready for travel soccer if they love to play soccer and want more of it and if you as a family can fit it into your schedule. Your child does not need to be the best one on their team to be ready for travel soccer. Your child can also try out any given year so if they don’t tryout as a U-9 it doesn’t mean they have missed the boat. They can try out for the first time as a U-10, a U-12 or a U-14.

**How old does my child need to be to try out for travel soccer?**

Your child needs to be a U-9 to try out for a spring-only team (tryouts are held at the end of the fall season). U-10’s can try out for the fall and the spring seasons separately. U-12’s and U-14’s have a choice to try out for a year round, fall-only or spring-only team. Check our website for the DOB info.

**What are the different options?**

BYSA offers a year-round program, a fall-only program and a spring-only option. The year round teams stay together from the fall until the spring season and also have a winter component played indoors. The fall-only team may appeal to a child who plays lacrosse or baseball in the spring and the spring-only option may work for a child who loves football.

**What is the time commitment?**

The travel teams practice two days a week and have one game a week (usually on Saturday afternoon or on Sunday). Any fall team plays in the BIT tournament and team playing in the spring plays in two tournaments. During the fall season all travel players are also placed on a Recreation team. BYSA does not require travel players to participate in Rec but we do strongly encourage it. Your child may just attend the Rec games and not practices or they may attend both. Please communicate with your child’s assigned Rec coach to let them know how much or how little your child will be there. We find many of our travel players enjoy the Saturday morning Rec games because they can try out a new position or new move without pressure, and they get to be with their friends.

**What are tryouts like?**

When your child shows up for tryouts they will be given a numbered jersey. The coaches will run them through drills and games to assess their skills. The coaches who are watching rate your player’s skills and attach those ratings to your child’s jersey number. Our Head of Youth Development, Alex Green, works very hard to keep the tryout process relaxed and fun for the kids so that they can perform at their best. We try to schedule two dates for each age group to help balance out any conflicts that your child might have i.e. they play another sport on that evening. We do however encourage all players to attend at least one try out date. After tryouts are completed our HYD takes the child’s tryout assessment and input from their last coach to assign a rating and then placed on a team.

**Will my child make a team?**

As long as we enough kids to make a team we will make as many teams as we can. It gets hard when we have only 6 kids or so. That is not enough to make a team. If that happens we encourage your child to try out in the next season.

**Who are the coaches?**

BYSA hires licensed coaches to provide your child with a higher level of coaching and a positive experience. BYSA does not allow parents to coach their child in the travel program. We encourage parents to coach their children in our Recreational league.

**Where are the games?**

Half of the regular season games will be home games and the other half will be played at fields across Rhode Island. For tournaments our team play in local states such as Connecticut, Massachusetts and occasionally further.

**What else do I need to know?**

BYSA fully believes that soccer is a late developing sport. Based on that, we encourage players of all abilities to try out and play travel soccer if they love the sport.